

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re application of: |) | Examiner: GAMETT, Daniel C. |
| Wei-Qiang GAO |) | Art Unit: 1647 |
| Application Serial No. 09/849,868 |) | Confirmation No. 1085 |
| Filed: May 4, 2001 |) | Attorney's Docket No. 39766-0035 C1 |
| For: HAIR CELL DISORDERS |) | Customer No. 25213 |

FILED VIA EFS on FEBRUARY **, 2007

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION
under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria Virginia, 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants request continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and submit a Preliminary Amendment in response to the Office Action mailed on December 21, 2006. An Information Disclosure Statement listing references cited in a foreign action with regard to a related foreign case is also submitted with this Preliminary Amendment.

Please enter the following amendments to the claims and to consider the following arguments.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 11.